**REPLIES GERMANY**

In preparation of the above-mentioned report, OHCHR would appreciate receiving:

a) Comments by States on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/268 in

general, and

b) Information on any action taken to follow-up on and/or implement the following

provisions of General Assembly resolution 68/268, which are specifically addressed to States:

**10. Encourages States parties to continue their efforts to nominate experts of high moral standing and recognized competence and experience in the field of human rights, in particular in the field covered by the relevant treaty, and, as appropriate, to consider adopting national policies or processes with respect to the nomination of experts as candidates for human rights treaty bodies;**

**13. Encourages States parties, in the election of treaty body experts, to give due consideration, as stipulated in the relevant human rights instruments, to equitable geographical distribution, the representation of the different forms of civilization and the principal legal systems, balanced gender representation and the participation of experts with disabilities in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies;**

**7. Recommends the more efficient and effective use of the meetings of States parties, inter alia, by proposing and organizing discussions on matters related to the implementation of each treaty;**

**8. Strongly condemns all acts of intimidation and reprisals against individuals and groups for their contribution to the work of the human rights treaty bodies, and urges States to take all appropriate action, consistent with the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and all other relevant human rights instruments, to prevent and eliminate such human rights violations;**

**Response by Germany**

First of all, Germany would like to welcome the Office’s efforts in reaching out to States seeking for their input to the preparation of the above-mentioned report.

Germany supports General Assembly resolution 68/268 and its implementation in the spirit of improving the efficient and effective functioning of the independent human rights treaty body system. This particularly includes the increased offer and use of procedures that do make it easier for States to comply with their reporting obligations, such as the “simplified reporting procedure”. We also welcome the strengthening of the role of the treaty body chairpersons as an important inter- as well as intra-committee mechanism that adds to strength of the treaty bodies in general and the harmonization of their working methods, where it makes sense and adds to the overall objective of efficiency and effectiveness.

Germany particularly encourages the nomination and selection of independent experts based on recognized competence and experience in the field of human rights. To this end Germany is in favour of a competitive election process in which the candidates submit themselves to public scrutiny. The hearings organized by civil society organizations for States running for membership of the Human Rights Council might serve as an example of how such scrutiny might be achieved. We also underline our continued support for the Addis Ababa Guidelines on the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies.

Germany fully concurs with the condemnation of all acts of intimidation and reprisals against individuals and groups for their contribution to the work of the human rights treaty bodies. In this regard, reference is made to our submission to the questionnaire on best practices in supporting human rights defenders, in which a number of measures that Germany undertakes in this field are outlined. Germany fully supports the creation of focal points on intimidations or reprisals, as suggested in the San José Guidelines.

Germany advocates for a stronger involvement of National Human Rights Institutions in the work of relevant UN processes and fora, including human rights treaty bodies. To this end, we successfully introduced General Assembly resolution 70/163, which invites the human rights treaty bodies, within their respective mandates and in accordance with the treaties establishing these mechanisms, to provide for ways to ensure the effective and enhanced participation by national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles at all relevant stages of their work. In this context, we support the conclusion of the 27th annual meeting of Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies calling on all treaty bodies to facilitate the harmonization of the working methods of the treaty bodies, for the benefit of rights-holders as well as duty-bearers, and the support expressed, in that regard, for the call made by national human rights institutions to harmonize treaty bodies’ modalities of engaging with such institutions, with a view to facilitating their participation, including by those national human rights institutions that are not able to send representatives to attend treaty body sessions.

We remain interested in information regarding progress and intermediary results regarding the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/268.